



JAN H. GARDNER

**Frederick County
Executive**

SB 586

**Local Infrastructure Fast Track for
Maryland Act**

County Position: SUPPORT

Date: March 7, 2017

Committee: Budget and Taxation

Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner urges your support for **Senate Bill 586** – “Local Infrastructure Fast Track for Maryland Act”.

Executive Gardner supports legislation to re-invest in infrastructure that includes highway user revenue, to create good paying jobs, attract businesses, and improve the quality of life in Frederick County and throughout the state. The State and local governments have shared responsibilities for roads and bridges and the revenues generated from them since the early 1900s. That is, until fiscal 2010, when the State reduced highway user revenues by 90 percent for most counties – and yet, local governments own and maintain 83 percent of the roads.

Highway user revenue funds are used to augment County road maintenance and improvement programs, including annual operations and capital improvements. Without highway user revenue funds, the scope of these programs and improvement projects must be reduced or deferred. While the level of revenue collected by the State has remained more or less steady, the amount of revenue passed on to the Counties and municipalities has been drastically reduced in recent years. For example, the level of funding received by Frederick County reached its peak in 2007, when highway user revenue funding was approximately \$13.8 million. Since that time annual funding allocations have been severely reduced, in some cases by up to 96% from one year to the next.

This bill provides meaningful new fiscal 2018 funding in local transportation aid and establishes a phased-in restoration of the historic 30 percent of the local share of state transportation revenues. This bill is an example of good government in action and a strong bipartisan effort to re-invest in roads and bridges, and ailing infrastructure across the state.

The Frederick County Executive urges your favorable **SUPPORT** for Senate Bill 586.